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Bambridge 2-7-1-80

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): T.B. Bambridge et al.
Case: 2-7-1-80
Serial No.: 10/787,010
Filing Date: February 25, 2004
Group: 2818
Examiner: Ngan V. Ngo

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature:  Date: August 5, 2005

Title: Methods and Apparatus for Wire Bonding with
Wire Length Adjustment in an Integrated Circuit

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is the following document relating to the above-identified patent application:

(1) Response to Restriction Requirement.

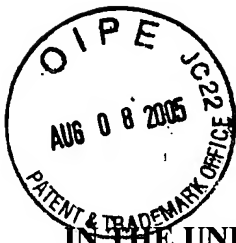
There is no additional fee due in conjunction with the response. In the event of any non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or to credit **Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0762** as required to correct the error.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 5, 2005

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Attorney Docket No. Bambridge 2-7-1-80

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action dated July 5, 2005, Applicants provide the following remarks for consideration:

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 25, 2004 with claims 1-20. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required restriction of claims 1-20 of the above-referenced application to one of the following groups of claims: claims 1-17 and 20 (Group I); claim 18 (Group II); and claim 19 (Group III).

The Examiner argues that the inventions are distinct because the method, apparatus and article of manufacture for performing a wire bonding operation do not require circuit elements disposed within an integrated circuit package as recited in claim 18. Additionally, the Examiner contends that the method for performing a wire bonding operation can be practiced by hand.

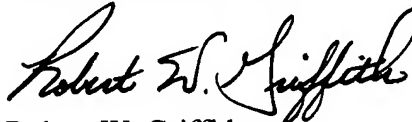
Applicants respectfully disagree with these contentions and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction for at least the reasons given below.

Applicants submit that the integrated circuit set forth in claim 18 cannot be made by a process that is materially different from the method set forth in claim 1, and that the method of claim 1 cannot be used to form a product materially different from the integrated circuit set forth in claim 18. Claim 18 recites an integrated circuit having wire bonds formed by a method also recited in claim 1, and the mere presence of circuit elements in the integrated circuit of claim 18 fails to distinguish it from the method of claim 1. This is further evidenced by the fact that circuit elements are recited in dependent claims 9-14 and 16. Applicants also submit that the process of the apparatus set forth in claim 19 cannot be performed by a process that is materially different from the method set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants assert that, in the interest of conservation of resources for the Patent Office as well as the Applicants, claims 1-20 should be examined together.

As apparent from independent claims 1 and 18-20, each of the steps recited in the method of claim 1 has a corresponding element in the integrated circuit set forth in claim 18 and the apparatus set forth in claim 19. Accordingly, the inventions set forth in the subject claims are properly linked to one another and should be considered together, and withdrawal of the restriction requirement in the present application is respectfully solicited.

In the event the outstanding restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-17 and 20, for prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 5, 2005